

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A managing method for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units through an ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, comprising the steps of:

causing said ordering apparatus to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

causing said composite apparatus to recognize unit information for specifying units to be composed itself and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule; and

comparing the composite state information created by said ordering apparatus and the composite state information created by said composite apparatus.

2. (Original) A managing system comprising an ordering apparatus and a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, for ordering said composite apparatus through said ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus comprises:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus; and

first creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule, and

said composite apparatus comprises:

means for recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself; and

second creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule.

3. (Original) The managing system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said ordering apparatus further comprises storing means for storing the composite state information created by said first creating means in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus.

4. (Original) The managing system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein said ordering apparatus and said composite apparatus are connected through a communication network,

said composite apparatus further comprises means for transmitting the composite state information created by said second creating means to said ordering apparatus, and

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for comparing the transmitted composite state information and the composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus information stored by said storing means.

5. (Original) The managing system as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising a managing apparatus, connected to said ordering apparatus and said composite apparatus through a communication network, for managing said composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for transmitting the composite state information created by said first creating means and composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus to said managing apparatus,

said composite apparatus further comprises means for transmitting the composite state information created by said second creating means to said managing apparatus, and

said managing apparatus further comprises means for comparing the composite state information transmitted from said ordering apparatus and the composite state information transmitted from said composite apparatus.

6. (Original) A composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, comprising:

means for recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for outputting the created composite state information to exterior.

7. (Currently amended) An ordering apparatus for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, comprising:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for, when receiving storing the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and means for comparing composite state information transmitted from exterior and created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by and the composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus information stored by said storing means, comparing received composite state information and the composite state information stored in said storing means.

8. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which a computer program is stored, the computer program for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, the recording medium causing via the computer program causing steps comprising the following to be performed steps of:

causing a computer to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

causing a computer to create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

causing a computer to store the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information compare composite state information transmitted from exterior and created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus

information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information. ~~the composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus information stored in said step for storing.~~

9. (Currently amended) A memory product readable by computers and storing therein a computer program for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, including:

computer readable code means to cause a computer for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for storing the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

computer readable code means for causing to cause a computer to, when receiving composite state information for comparing composite state information transmitted from exterior and created according to the same rule as said rule and said stored composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus information and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.